ATTORNEY'S DOCKET 7146,0116

Application No.

09/885,320

Amendment dated: Decemember 15, 2004 Office Action dated: November 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims dated November 8, 2004 will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

- l (currently amended). A method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes, wherein each of said bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences, said method comprising the step of processing a symbol holding a place in each of said plurality of sequences for said plurality of bit planes such that said image is compressed in a manner reducing the number of bits representing said image.
- 2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said step of processing a symbol holding a place in said plurality of sequences comprises <u>results in the step of reducing</u> a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols.
- 3 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes all information included in said first number of symbols.
- 4 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.
- 5 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:
 - (a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;
 - (b) assigning a code symbol to pattern; and
 - (c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.

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information than included in said first number of symbols.

6 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes less

- 7 (currently amended). A method of processing an image comprising a plurality of bit planes, wherein each of said bit planes include a plurality of ordered symbol sequences, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) processing a symbol holding a place in a first of said bit planes in said plurality of sequences with a first process such that the number of bits representing said first bit plane is reduced;
 - (b) processing said symbol holding said place in said first of said bit planes with a second process such that the number of bits representing said first bit plane is reduced; and
 - (c) retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said second processes.
- 8 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein at least one of said first process and said second process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprising all information included in said first number of symbols.
- 9 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.
- 10 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:
 - (a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;
 - (b) assigning a code symbol to pattern; and
 - (c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.

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- 11 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein at least one of said first process and said second process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols containing less information than said first number of symbols.
- 12 (original). The method of claim 7 wherein the step of retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said second processes comprises the step of retaining said result of said processing comprising a lesser number of symbols.
- 13 (currently amended). A method of processing an image comprising the steps of:
 - (a) decomposing said image to an array of pixels;
 - (b) recording a luminosity of a pixel as an ordered symbol sequence;
 - (c) partitioning a plurality of said ordered symbol sequences into a plurality of bit planes at least one bit plane each of which comprising a plurality of said symbols holding a place in said plurality of said sequences; and
 - (d) processing said symbols of said plurality of said bit planes in such a manner that said image is compressed in a manner reducing the number of bits representing said image. a bit plane.
- 14 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein said step of processing said symbols of said bit plane comprises the step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols.
- 15 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes all information included in said first number of symbols.
- 16 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the step of replacing a plurality of a repeating symbol with an indicator of a number of repetitions of said symbol.

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17 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said step of reducing a first number of said

symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprises the steps of:

- (a) identifying a pattern in an order of said symbols;
- (b) assigning a code symbol to said pattern; and
- (c) replacing said symbols of said pattern with said code symbol.
- 18 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein said lesser number of symbols includes less information than included in said first number of symbols.
- 19 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of partitioning a plurality of said ordered symbol sequences into at least one bit plane comprising a plurality of said symbols holding a place in said plurality of said sequences comprises the step of including in said bit plane symbols holding a plurality of said places in an ordered sequence, said plurality of places being less than all of said places included in said sequence.
- 20 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of processing said symbols of a bit plane comprises the steps of:
 - (a) processing said symbols with a first process;
 - (b) processing said symbols with a second process; and
 - (c) retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said second processes.
- 21 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first process and said second process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols comprising all information included in said first number of symbols.
- 22 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said first process and said second process comprises a step of reducing a first number of said symbols to a lesser number of symbols containing less information than said first number of symbols.

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- 23 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein the step of retaining a result of said processing with one of said first and said second processes comprises the step of retaining said result of said processing comprising a lesser number of symbols.
- 24(original). The method of claim 13 wherein the step of recording a luminosity of a pixel as an ordered symbol sequence comprises the steps of:
 - (a) decomposing a pixel of said array to a color plane pixel having a luminosity corresponding an intensity of a component color of said pixel; and
 - (b) recording said luminosity of said color plane pixel as an ordered symbol sequence.